

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 COME-00

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FAO COUNCIL SEATS

FROM USDEL TO FAO CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: EXPANSION OF FAO COUNCIL TO 42 SEATS WAS ADOPTED IN COMMISSION III BY VOTE 55-0, WITH 17 (US) ABSTENTIONS. EXPANSION IS TWO SEATS MORE THAN ORIGINAL SIX OF COUNCIL-BACKED RESOLUTION. EXTRA NEW SEATS ARE SLATED FOR AFRICA AND LA REGIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE COUNCIL EXPANSION SUBJECT THOUGHLY AIRED PREVIOUSLY, IT WAS EXPECTED GENERATE LITTLE DISCUSSION, BUT CONTRARY WAS CASE WITH 100 INTERVENTIONS FIRST DAY (OF 1 1/2). TONE OF DISCUSSION REFLECTED AFRICAN AND LATIN PUSH FOR "MORE EQUITABLE" REPRESENTATION AND VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO COMPROMISE.

3. BRIEF U.S. STATEMENT MADE RELATIVELY EARLY IN DEBATE URGED ADOPTION OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AND CITED NEED FOR EFFICIENTY IN COUNCIL WORK, AMOUNT OF STUDY ALREADY GIVEN TO SUBJECT, AND COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSAL.

4. BELLWEATHER OF SENTIMENT SHOWN IN RESULT OF VOTE ON "ADMISSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS PROPOSING INCREASE OF SEATS BEYOND FORTY": 60-20 (US)-6. ORIGINAL PROPOSAL PLUS IVORY COAST-NICA-
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RAGUAN AMENDMENT ADOPTED WITHOUT DISSENT (55-0-17(US)) AFTER

AMENDMENT APPROVED SEPARATELY. NEW SEATS ALLOCATED TWO EACH TO AFRICA, ASIA AND LA, AND ONE EACH EUROPE AND NEAR EAST REGIONS. COMMISSION REPORT SCHEDULED FOR PLENARY ADOPTION ON FRIDAY AM, NOVEMBER 16.

5. NEW COUNCIL SIZE (42) EXCEEDS BY TWO SEATS WHAT U.S. HAS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE, BUT IS WITHIN U.S.-SUPPORTED GUIDELINE OF ONETHIRD (NOW 43) OF MEMBERSHIP AS LIMIT "TO INSURE EFFICIENCY." AFRICAN AND LA SUPPORT OF 42 MEMBER IS QUITE SOLID. ALTHOUGH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REQUIRES 2/3RD VOTE, IN VIEW OF SUPPORT MUSTERED FOR 42 AND GENERAL SYMPATHY INDICATED, USDEL FEELS THAT TO OPPOSE EXPANDED SIZE FURTHER WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND PLANS TO OBSTAIN WHEN THIS PART OF REPORT ADOPTED BY PLENARY. VOLPE

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